

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 GENEVA 11629 281437Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 DODE-00 CIAE-00
INRE-00 ACDE-00 /026 W
-----123953 281457Z /45
P 281430Z JUL 78
FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2647
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION USNATO

S E C R E T GENEVA 11629

EXDIS

USSALTTWO

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PARM
SUBJECT: COMMENTS ON PLENARY, JULY 27, 1978
(SALT TWO - 1821)

REFS: A. SALT TWO - 1822 B. SALT TWO - 1823

1. AT JULY 27 PLENARY, MY STATEMENT (REF A) REAFFIRMED US PROPOSED REVISED LANGUAGE FOR JOINT STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES, AND CRITICIZED SOVIET PROPOSALS FOR REDUCTIONS IN WARHEADS AND CONSIDERATION OF "ALL RELEVANT FACTORS."
2. SEMENOV'S STATEMENT (REF B) REAFFIRMED SOVIET POSITION ON ARTICLE XVI, ADVANCE NOTIFICATION, AND CALLED PRESENT US POSITION "UNCLEAR."
3. AT POST-PLENARY, I GAVE EXTENDED RATIONALE FOR US ARTICLE XVI POSITION. SEMENOV SAID USSR COULD CONSIDER DEFINING SINGLE VICE MULTIPLE LAUNCHES GIVEN AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE ON ARTICLE XVI, BUT OTHERWISE DEFENDED CURRENT

SECRET

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PAGE 02 GENEVA 11629 281437Z

SOVIET PROPOSAL. HE SAID MOVEMENT TO DATE WAS RESULT OF PRESIDENTIAL INTEREST AND CONTENTED THAT IN FACT, ARTICLE XVI BORE NO RELATION TO TREATY LIMITATIONS. HE ALSO STATED SOVIET OPPOSITION TO EQUIPPING TRANSPORT AIRPLANES WITH CRUISE MISSILES AND TO PERMITTING MORE THAN 20 CMS PER CARRIER BOMBER, "NOT ONE MORE."

4. HIGHLIGHTS OF OTHER POST-PLENARY CONVERSATIONS:

OKUN-MCNEILL-BEECROFT/KARPOV-SMOLIN-OBOKHOV. OKUN NOTED THAT SOVIET PROPOSAL AS PRACTICAL MATTER WOULD ALLOW USSR TO TEST ICBMS IN MANY MORE CASES WITHOUT ADVANCE NOTIFICATION THAN WOULD US PROPOSAL. KARPOV REITERATED SOVIET VIEW THAT US PROPOSAL WAS ONE-SIDED IN THAT IT WOULD AFFECT ONLY USSR, AND THAT SOVIETS HAD ALREADY MOVED TO MEET US CONCERNS.

ROWNY/BELETSKY-STARODUBOV. ROWNY ASKED BELETSKY WHAT FRODS WOULD BE GIVEN BISON TANKERS TO DISTINGUISH THEM FROM BISON HEAVY BOMBERS. STARODUBOV SAID THE SOVIETS HAD MADE A CONCESSION ON THE LAUNCHERS AT D&P AND THAT THE US WAS TRYING TO EXTRACT ANOTHER CONCESSION ON BISON TANKER. ROWNY COUNTERED THAT D&P WAS NOT A CONCESSION BUT AN AGREEMENT TO A TYPE RULE AND THAT THE SAME PRINCIPLE OF COUNTING ALL SYSTEMS NOT SEPARATELY DISTINGUISHABLE SHOULD APPLY TO ALL BISON AIRCRAFT. IN AN ABRUPT SHIFT AS HE WAS LEAVING, BELETSKY SAID THAT IF THE US INSISTED ON EQUIPPING TRANSPORT AIRCRAFT WITH CRUISE MISSILES THIS COULD DISRUPT NEGOTIATIONS.

5. NEXT MEETING WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 2. EARLE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SALT (ARMS CONTROL), MEETING REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978GENEVA11629
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780310-0370
Format: TEL
From: GENEVA USSALTTWO
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780710/aaaaaiob.tel
Line Count: 85
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 1b3cc06a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 78 SALT TALKS 1822
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1846136
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: COMMENTS ON PLENARY, JULY 27, 1978 (SALT TWO - 1821)
TAGS: PARM
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/1b3cc06a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014